29

DEF 12-5 ISR

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

(1686)

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CORRECTION IS CD: 211765 11 AM RJ 8676

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Control:
Rec'd: MAY 10, 1965
8:04 A.M.

FROM: TEL AVIV - CORRECTED COPY

ACTION: SECSTATE 1431

INFO: AMMAN 325
BAGHDAD 35
BEIRUT 265
BONN 135
CAIRO 246
DAMASCUS 256
JIDDA 26
KUWAIT 4
LONDON 268
MOSCOW 16
PARIS 225
RABAT 6
TUNIS 17
TRIPOLI 6
POLAD CINCSTRIKE CINCMEAFSA UNN
TAIZ UNN
HONG KONG UNN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY S. Dinan DATE 2/1/84
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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DATE: MAY 10

FRENCH MISSILES FOR ISRAEL

DEF 12-5 ISR

DEPCIRTEL 2154; PARIS 6339; BEIRUT 1226

(1) THOUGH EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN ISRAELIS CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT FAIRLY DEVIOUS "PLANTING" OPERATIONS, WE FIND IT HARD TO RATIONALIZE HOW THEY MIGHT HAVE CONSIDERED AS ADVANTAGEOUS MAY 6 STORIES RE FRENCH SUPPLY OF MISSILES.

NO NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED HERE ON 6TH. THUS, IF THIS WAS ISRAELI PLANT INTENDED FOR "INDEPENDENCE DAY IMPACT," ITS APPEARANCE A DAY

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Tel Aviv 1431

EARLIER WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE EFFICACIOUS. FBIS RECORDS COULD BE CHECKED TO ASCERTAIN TIMING AND INTENSITY OF KOL ISRAEL'S PLAY OF ITEM. PRESS ON 7TH QUOTED LEBANESE ACCOUNTS WITHOUT COMMENT.

SOME GOI CIRCLES PERSIST IN BELIEVING ISRAEL'S INTERESTS REQUIRE CONTINUED SOURING OF ARAB-WESTERN RELATIONS. BUT EVEN HARD-LINERS PERCEIVE MUCH VALUE IN LEBANON'S INDEPENDENCE AND WESTERN ORIENTATION. ESPECIALLY GIVEN GOI'S HIGH HOPES FOR DE GAULLE'S MODERATING INFLUENCES ON HELOU RE JORDAN WATERS, WHY SHOULD ISRAELIS HAVE ACTED SO QUEER HELOU'S PARIS VISIT?

ISRAEL MAY BE CONFIDENT OF FRENCH CONSTANCY IN MILITARY PROCUREMENT FIELD, BUT WE WONDER IF GOI WOULD HAVE RISKED GOF DISPLEASURE BY SUCH AWKWARDLY TIMED LEAK.

ABOVE SPECULATION SUGGESTS WE NOT DISMISS POSSIBILITY STORY PLANTED BY FRENCH, COMMUNISTS OR UAR.

WE SHALL SEEK REACTION TO ARAB PRESS STORIES IN COURSE OUR NORMAL CONTACTS.

GP-3.

BARBOUR

WA/21